"The dose recommended is half a drachm of the vinum ipecacuanhæ in four ounces of water, a dessert-spoonful to be taken every one, two, or three hours, according to the severity of the cough. Children under five years old should only take a teaspoonful of the same mixture, but many children of this age can tolerate, and are benefited by, much larger doses.

"In the capillary bronchitis of children, even when complicated with croupy symptoms, it acts well. In these cases the writer orders ʒss of vinum ipecacuanhæ to four ounces of water, a teaspoonful to be taken every one or two hours, or much more frequently if the symptoms are urgent.

"In many cases of nocturnal spasmodic asthma, in which hours are spent in great distress, with livid face and lips, loud wheezing throughout the chest, and want of breath, causing fear of suffocation, if there is no organic disease of the heart or the lungs, ipecacuanha will give quick and marked relief. Five drops may be taken as a dose, repeated every ten to thirty minutes for two or three hours, unless relief comes much sooner, in which case the dose should be diminished and taken less frequently. Care should always be taken to avoid its emetic or nauseating effect.

"In these affections of the lungs, its expectorant and antispasmodic character cannot be doubted, nor its curative action in controlling and stopping the abnormal secretion of mucus.

"Hemorrhage in the early stage of tubercular phthisis, and in most stages of this disease, when produced by engorgement of the bronchial mucous membrane, and accompanied by little or no acceleration of pulse or increase of temperature, is often readily stopped by ipecacuanha. In hæmatemesis arising from vicarious menses, and also in some cases of menorrhagia, it is very useful.

"In many cases of dysentery it lessens the bloody and mucous discharge, and removes the cutting pains and tenesmus, especially in the early and late stages of the disease. In cases of dysentery or diarrhœa, where nausea, vomiting, or retching exists, ipecacuanha will stop the sickness, and at least control the dysentery or diarrhœa. The watery diarrhœa during dentition, the diarrhœa with green evacuations, and the dysenteric diarrhœa, which are so common among children, rapidly yield to this drug. Vinum ipecacuanhæ is effective in dysentery and diarrhœa, but the writer has preferred the pulvis ipecacuanhæ, considering its action more speedy and trustworthy.

"It is more necessary to vary the dose in dysentery than in any other class of cases, one grain every one or two hours being quite sufficient with some persons, whereas others require ten, twenty, or more grains as a dose. These larger doses sometimes, when first administered, bring on vomiting, which it is well to avoid; but if the patient is kept lying on the back, and the dose persevered with, it can generally be tolerated, and a rapid recovery often follows.

"In the diarrhœa and dysenteric diarrhœa of children, one-fourth to one-half of a grain, with a little white sugar, at intervals of one to three hours, is generally sufficient, but the quantity must be increased if necessary."

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11. *Physiological Effects of Curara.*—Prof. PAUL BERT (*Archives de Physiol.*, No. 5, 1869) has made some curious observations on a curarized dog. After paralysis appeared, artificial respiration was started, and continued regularly by means of the ingenious apparatus of M. Gréhant. The right vagus and sciatic nerves were then exposed and tied. During the succeeding six hours the action of the nerves, the condition of the pupils, &c., were hourly observed, with the following constant results; the pupil of the right side was contracted, while that of the left was widely dilated; galvanization of either vagus caused dilatation of the pupil, with projection of the eyeball and complete stoppage of the heart's action. The left iris contracted under the action of light. An interesting result was obtained when galvanic stimulation was applied to the central portion of the tied (right) sciatic nerve, or to the median nerve, viz: contraction of the bladder, which produced, the sphincter being paralyzed, the voiding of a small quantity of urine. This effect could be produced only through the intervention of the sensory nerves of animal life; for it did not follow excitation of the vagi, the sympathetic in the neck, nor the splanchnic nerves. The interest of this observation is apparent when its value is

considered in explaining certain well-known phenomena, dependent on the relations between the bladder and the sensory nerves, such as the desire to urinate caused by a sensation of extreme cold, or by entering a bath of cold or hot water. In this experiment also Dr. Bert discovered the presence of sugar in the saliva.—*Journ. Anat. and Phys.*, Nov. 1869.

12. *Physiological Action of Bromide of Potassium.*—Dr. Purser, of Dublin, gives (*Dublin Quarterly Journ. of Med. Sci.*, May, 1869) the general results of his experiments to determine the physiological action of bromide of potassium somewhat in the following manner: After a stage of temporary excitement, which is not, however, invariably observed, bromide of potassium destroys reflex movement, by an action on the gray matter of the brain and cord. It next destroys sensibility, also by an action on those parts of the nerve centres whose function is to receive and conduct impressions coming from the periphery. The power of voluntary motion is generally retained for a considerable period after the reflex excitability is abolished; but it is likewise eventually lost, and this occurs while the nerves and muscles are yet functionally active. The effect on the heart varies according to the dose and place of injection. If the dose be large and injected in the neighbourhood of the thorax, the heart speedily comes to rest in diastole, before the occurrence of complete suspension of voluntary or even of reflex movement; but if the dose be comparatively small or injected at a distance from the thorax, the heart continues to beat for several hours after movement of every other kind is at an end. The capillary circulation, after a temporary acceleration, becomes slow, and altogether stops before the heart ceases to beat. Respiration is one of the first functions affected, sometimes stopping almost instantaneously on the introduction of the poison; and the respiratory movements of the chest cease before those of the throat. The nerves lose their conductivity at a late period, but muscular irritability is retained for some time after this. Dr. Purser concludes his paper with an account of a few experiments made with bromide of sodium, bromide of ammonium, and iodide of potassium, which appear to show that in physiological action these substances differ considerably from each other, and from bromide of potassium. The experiments were made on frogs only.—*Journ. Anat. and Phys.*, Nov. 1869.

13. *Physiological Action of Delphinia.*—Dr. Cayrade (*Journal de l'Anat.*, No. 3, 1869) summarizes the results of his investigations into the action of the alkaloidal active principle of delphinium staphisagria, in the following conclusions: 1. Delphinia influences the spinal cord in such a manner as to diminish and then destroy its excito-motor power. 2. This action is produced gradually, and it extends from behind forwards, reflex power disappearing first in the posterior extremities, then in the anterior, and last of all in the head. 3. Voluntary movements continue after the loss of reflex power, but the former become incoördinate before their abolition. 4. Delphinia seems to affect successively the general sensibility, the reflex function, the respirations, and the power of coördinate movements. Its action is restricted to the nervous system.—*Journ. Anat. and Phys.*, Nov. 1869.

14. *Physiological Action of Picrotoxine.*—This active principle of *Menispermum Cocculus* has formed the subject of a recent investigation by Dr. Roeber, of Berlin (*Archiv v. Reichert und Du Bois Reymond*, 1869, Heft 1, pp. 38-68). He found that in frogs a comatose condition was first produced, and then a series of tetanic spasms, which by and by became clonic. During the stage of clonic spasm, the inspirations were greatly exaggerated, so as abnormally to inflate the lungs; and, on the cessation of each spasm, the air rushed out suddenly with a distinct sound. The heart's action is slowed and the diastole prolonged by picrotoxine. The respiratory movements are at first almost abolished, but they reappear gradually on the disappearance of the spasms. It was found that the occurrence of spasms could not be prevented by removal of the cerebrum or optic lobes; but they never appeared after separation of the medulla oblongata from the m. spiralis. When this operation was performed, picrotoxine